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EIGHTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Municipal Officers

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN of RIPLEY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 24, 1900.

A. H. BRIDGHAM,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
DEXTER, ME.

Allen County Public Library

The Old Store

under new management, stands ready to serve you this season, as it has for many seasons past, with a bran new Stock of Clothing, Hats and Furnishings for men and boys. We shall endeavor to keep up the reputation which the store has always had for selling good goods, at the lowest possible margin of profit, and truthfully representing them. We seek a continuance of your patronage on these lines and hope to see not only the old customers, but many new ones.

Lowell Clothing Co.,

HARRY E. HALE, Manager.

30 Main St., - Dexter.

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A. H. BRIDGHAM,
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TOWN WARRANT.

To J. S. Laughton a Constable of the Town of Ripley, in the County of Somerset. GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are required to notify the inhabitants of the town of Ripley, qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the town hall in said town on Monday, the fifth day of March, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit:

Art. 1—To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2—To choose a Town Clerk for the year ensuing.

Art. 3—To hear reports of town officers.

Art. 4—To choose three or more Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor.

Art. 5—To choose a Town Treasurer.

Art. 6—To choose one or more Superintending School Committee.

Art. 7—To choose a Supervisor of Schools.

Art. 8—To choose a Road Commissioner.

Art. 9—To choose a Town Agent.

Art. 10—To choose all the other necessary officers for the year ensuing.

Art. 11—To see how much money the town will grant and raise for the support of schools.

Art. 12—To see how much money the town will grant and raise for the support of poor.

Art. 13—To see how much money the town will grant and raise for the support of roads and bridges.

Art. 14—To see how much money the town will grant and raise for the purchase of school books.

Art. 15—To see how much money the town will grant and raise for the repair of school houses.

Art. 16—To see how much money the town will grant and raise to pay town charges.

Art. 17—To see how much money the town will grant and raise to pay interest on town orders.

ART. 18—To see what method the town will adopt for the collection of taxes.

ART. 19—To see if the town will vote to authorize the Trustees of the Crocker library to establish a branch or subordinate library in the northeast part of the town.

ART. 20—To see if the town will vote to raise fifty dollars to be used in defraying the expenses of the Crocker library.

ART. 21—To see if the town will vote to repair or rebuild the upper Mainstream bridge and raise money for the same or act anything thereon.

ART. 22—To see if the town will vote to build or repair the fences around the school yards in Dists. No. 1 and 5 and raise money for the same.

ART. 23—To see if the town will vote to instruct the selectmen to lay out and build a road from a point on the Fush hill road, nearly opposite M. L. Thurston's house, thence east on the old rangeway to Chandler's corner, and raise money for the same.

ART. 24—To see if the town will vote to build wire fences where needed on the highway and raise money for the same.

ART. 25—To see if the town will vote to build a snow fence on the hill east from J. S. Laughton's and raise money for the same.

ART. 26—To see if the town will vote to raise money for a Free High School.

ART. 27—To see if the town will vote to accept the list of names prepared by the municipal officers for the jury box.

The selectmen give notice that they will be in session at the town hall in said town for the purpose of correcting the list of voters in said town, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, on the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-fourth day of February, A. D., 1900.

WM. HOYT,
H. Q. WORTHEN,
C. E. HANSON,
} Selectmen of Ripley.

ASSESSORS' DEPARTMENT.

VALUATION FOR THE YEAR 1899.

Valuation of resident real estate	$ 86,330 00
non-resident real estate	12,035 00
resident personal estate	21,755 00
non-resident personal estate	210 00
Total valuation	$120330 00

CASH TAX FOR 1899.

No. of Polls, 124.

Sum assessed on polls	$ 372 00
resident real estate	1,726 60
non-resident real estate	240 70
resident personal estate	435 10
non-resident personal estate	4 20
Total	$ 2778 60
Amount raised by town	2732 64
Overlayings	$ 45 96

Rate of taxation, 2 cents on a dollar.

AMOUNT OF MONEY APPROPRIATED.

Amount for support of schools	$ 450 00
poor	100 00
roads in summer	800 00
roads in winter	200 00
Mainstream road	200 00
Amount for School books	75 00
repair of school houses	55 00
town charges	250 00
paying interest on orders	80 00
State tax	349 72
County tax	122 92
support of Library	50 00
Total	$ 2732 64

SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

Amount raised by town	$ 450 00
received from State	344 85
of interest on school fund order	32 43
brought from last year	7 79
Total	$ 835 07
Amount expended for schools, orders drawn,	767 25
Unexpended	$ 67 82

REPAIRS AND UTENCILS FOR SCHOOL HOUSES

Amount raised by town	$ 55 00
paid by order of the school board	67 34
Overdrawn	$ 12 34

SCHOOL BOOK ACCOUNT.

Amount raised by town	$ 75 00
paid out, orders drawn	3 90
Unexpended	$ 71 10
Amt. due for school books purchased, estimated	$ 80 00

Department of Overseers of the Poor.

Amount raised by town	$ 100 00
paid city of Gardiner for supplies furnished Jerre Dow and family in 1897 and 1898	19 13
paid city of Bangor for supplies furnished Mary L. Smith	15 00
paid for support of Ethel Mae and Alice Smith at Industrial school to Oct. 1, 1899	48 00
Total	$ 82 13
Unexpended	$ 17 87
Due for support of Ethel and Alice Smith at Industrial school	$ 16 00
Due city of Bangor for support of Mrs. Anthony Gallant, *nee* Mary L. Smith	2 00

SELECTMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

For support of schools	$ 450 00
support of poor	100 00
support of roads in summer	800 00
support of roads in winter	200 00
repair of Mainstream road	200 00
school books	75 00
repair of school houses	55 00
town charges	250 00
paying interest on orders	80 00
state tax	349 72
county tax	122 92
support of library	50 00
Received for advertising in town reports of 1899,	1 50
school fund from state	344 85
from state for free high school	31 25
from state dog tax rebate	23 84
from state for free library	17 31
from state for damage done to sheep by dogs	1 70
for rent of town house	3 00
balance of 1898 dog tax	2 00
for Jones road machine	11 00
interest on 1897 taxes	2 06
for finding lists	30
for fines on books	1 80
Overlayings	45 96
Total	$ 3219 21

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Amount raised by town to pay int. on orders	$ 80 00
paid	88 69
Overdrawn	$ 8 69

TAXES ABATED

Elliott Smith, tax of 1898	$ 6 80
Mrs. Elliott Smith, tax of 1899	8 20
Olive S. Prescott	7 40
H. G. Bryant	8 80
John Drew, taxed in Dexter	3 00
Total	$ 34 20

TOWN OFFICERS BILLS.

Paid Wm. Hoyt, services as selectman, assessor and overseer of poor	$ 35 00
paid H. Q. Worthen for same	29 00
C. E. Hanson for same	12 00
C. E. Hanson for 1898	10 00
J. S. Laughton, Supervisor of schools	35 00
Wm. H. Farrar, town treasurer	15 00
Total	$ 136 00

TOWN CHARGES.

Amount raised by town	$ 250 00
Paid for printing town reports of 1899	$ 11 50
for printing town reports of 1900	7 00
for blank books, stationery and postage	10 75
for mowing burying grounds	4 00
for wire for burying ground fence	2 00
for sheep killed by dogs	6 50
A. G. Farrar, sec'y board of health and recording vital statistics	6 65
C. A. Downing for driving hearse	8 00
E. H. Ramsdell, office rent	2 00
J. S. Laughton, constable and collecting dog license	2 50
Wm. Hoyt, time and expenses before state assessors	4 25
J. S. Laughton, for collecting taxes of 1899	83 35
town officers bills	136 00
Total	$ 284 50
Overdrawn	$ 34 50

CROCKER LIBRARY.

Amount raised by town	$ 50 00
paid by order of trustees	50 00

SUMMARY OF TOTAL EXPENSES.

Paid for support of schools	$ 767 25
for school books	3 90
for repairs of school houses and utensils	67 34
for support of poor	82 13
for highways and bridges	1154 34
Crocker Library	50 00
town charges	284 50
interest on orders	88 69
on county tax	50 00
state tax	351 72
Total	$ 2899 87

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Amount raised to pay for work in summer	$ 800 00
for winter	200 00
for Mainstream road	200 00
Total	$ 1200 00
Paid for work in spring of 1899, town orders drawn	$ 75 93
for work in summer	490 79
" " " "	343 70
" " on Mainstream road	206 52
Total	$ 1116 94
Unexpended	$ 83 06
Amount paid on Geo. Chadbourn road orders for 1898	$ 34 80
paid for breaking roads winter of 1898	2 60

RESOURCES.

Due from non-resident tax of 1890	$ 80
" " " " 1891	3 37
" " " " 1893	21 10

" " " " 1894	6 50
" " " " 1895	15 07
" " " " 1896	11 70
" " " " 1897	8 70
" " " " 1898	52 98
" " " " 1899	118 74
from collector of 1897	110 37
from state for damage done by dogs	6 50
from state, dog tax rebate, (estimated)	30 00
Cash in treasury	663 41
Total	$ 1049 24

LIABILITIES.

Due on outstanding orders bearing interest at 4 per cent.	$ 924 14
on outstanding orders not bearing interest	107 15
for school books (estimated)	80 00
on pauper account	18 00
on interest on orders (estimated)	50 00
on school account	67 82
on county tax	72 92
Total	$ 1320 03
Balance against town	$ 270 79

We, the undersigned, present to you the above report, showing the expenditures for the current year; also the financial standing of the town as shown by the books, for the year ending Feb. 24, 1900.

Wm. Hoyt,
H. Q. Worthen,
C. E. Hanson,
} Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, of Ripley.

HIGHWAYS.

MONEY EXPENDED IN SUMMER OF 1899 BY WM. HOYT.

Date of certificate. 1899.			
May 1	Paid S. W. Lane for labor	$ 3	30
	John Bowdoin	2	95
	B. F. Lord	2	11
	M. L. Thurston	1	05
	M. R. Bowdoin		50
	G. W. Marsh	1	00
	Jesse W. Hoyt	1	18
	Wm. Hoyt	7	78
4	John Jewett	2	40
	C. E. Tripp		75
	L. S. Strout	4	24
25	Wm. H. Hurd	3	74
	Henry Marsh	4	35
	T. L. Webber	4	60
	Charles Carr	5	00
June 10	L. H. Tibbetts	3	00
15	L. S. Strout	1	00
	Wm. Bowdoin	1	45
22	C. T. Neal	2	63
	Wm. H. Lombard	1	60
	C. A. Downing	1	60
Aug. 26	Geo. M. Nutter	2	07
		$ 58	30
Mar. 23	Paid C. M. Conant & Co. for cutting edge and bolts for road machine	$ 8	80
May 4	Selden Scribner for blacksmith work on road machine		75
8	C. E. Tripp for labor	18	00
	John Jewett	18	00
17	T. L. Webber	2	50
25	E. G. Robinson	1	70
June 10	L. H. Tibbetts	10	00
15	C. E. Tripp	13	22
	Herbert Downing	12	50
	Jesse W. Hoyt	17	25

	Wm. Hoyt for cash paid for dynamite and bolts	1	03
	Wm. Hoyt for labor	20	63
	L. S. Strout	6	50
June 21	Wm. H. Hurd	4	00
22	Orin Judkins		88
	John W. Berry for work on bridge near T. Brown's	1	38
	C. T. Neal for work and timber for bridge near T. Brown's	2	38
24	M. L. Thurston for labor	18	00
	John Jewett	18	00
	C. E. Tripp	4	78
28	R. W. Felker	4	83
	R. W. Felker for plank for bridge near T. Brown's	4	37
	Geo. W. Chadbourn for labor	1	25
July 12	Herbert Skillins		63
21	L. Ramsdell for bolts and oil for road machine		43
	L. Ramsdell for plank and spikes for bridge near the old church	8	60
Oct. 14	Jesse W. Hoyt for labor	12	93
	Fred Brown for cutting bushes	3	50
	Wm. Hoyt for labor	10	00
18	Henry Bussell	11	25
Nov. 10	L. S. Strout	5	00
Nov. 18	R. W. Felker for lumber for snow fence	1	00
	L. R. Ramsdell for spikes and hauling lumber for snow fence	1	80
	William Hoyt for labor	3	75
Dec. 9	Edward Skillins for posts for snow fence	1	50
16	Wm. H. Hurd for cutting bushes	1	25
18	Levi Stevens for cutting bushes	1	50
	Lamont Ellms for labor	1	15
1900			
Feb. 3	C. E. Carr for wire and staples (vote of town)	4	65
19	Jesse W. Hoyt for cutting bushes	2	87
20	D. C. Pratt for cutting bushes	1	25
	T. Woodcock for cutting bushes	2	50
	Chas. Boynton for cutting bushes		50

John H. Lane for watering tub	3 00
	$ 269 81

MONEY EXPENDED BY WM. HOYT IN WINTER.

Paid Jesse W. Hoyt	$ 2 31
Wm. Hoyt	4 00
Lamont Ellms	2 50
E. S. Whitney	13 50
R. M. Lane	13 50
John Bowdoin	1 50
M. L. Thurston	3 60
B. F. Lord	3 75
Geo. Chadbourn	1 20
M. R. Bowdoin	38
Geo W. Marsh	2 23
Orin Judkins	1 44
Geo. M. Carr	2 00
Charles Brown	25
Thomas Ellis	25
L. S. Strout	6 89
H. N. Bowdoin	5 22
Moses Seavey	90
Levi Katen	56
Abner Strout	3 91
Geo R. Sampson	81
Edgar Jewett	50
Henry Bussell	75
Edward Skillins	3 00
Albert L. Seavey	2 40
Henry Thomes	2 00
Wm. H. Hurd	9 45
M. L. Arno	90
Harry Kittridge	5 70
E. G. Robinson	4 20
S. W. Lane	2 30
John F. Nutter	60
Geo. Willard	2 33
F. B. Felker	75
G. M. Nutter	9 80
C. E. Tripp	6 42
John Jewett	3 15
Herbert Skillins	37
Calvin Goodwin	60

Harry Seavey	1 37
Walter Dunlap	12 09
Llewellyn Judkins	3 98
Carrol Hanson	25
Roscoe Felker	25
E. H. Ramsdell	13
C. A. Downing	11 55
Walter Hilton	4 85
Frank Packard	88
T. Brown	60
G. D. Berry	1 38
C. T. Neal	6 00
L. H. Tibbetts	8 00
	$ 177 25

EXPENDED BY C. E. HANSON, SUMMER OF 1899.

May	28	Paid H. C. Bane	$ 11 47
June	17	George Kimball	2 30
		C. E. Jones	52 00
		S. Lowell	33 00
July	8	Wm. Stewart	4 74
		George Rummery	3 05
Oct.	14	Albert Sawyer	14 30
	21	Orin Judkins	2 50
Nov.	10	S. Lowell	2 00
		N. F. Woodcock	2 00
		C. E. Jones	12 65
		C. E. Hanson	97 00
		J. S. Laughton, watering tub	1 75
			$ 238 76

MONEY EXPENDED BY C. E. HANSON, WINTER BREAKING.

Paid M. A. Randall	$ 11 70
Levi Stevens	3 00
Charles Ronco	1 75
Charles Wakefield	2 43
Albert Sawyer	13 92
D. C. Wakefield	2 48
S. Lowell	5 80
C. E. Hanson	7 90
D. P. Pingree	2 83
W. H. Farrar	3 67
Charles Folsom	5 50

George Kimball	2 93
Adelbert Farrar	3 60
Page Brothers	1 50
George Rummery	2 98
Fred Skillins	6 00
Bert Forsyth	2 50
Fred Skillins	9 87
C. E. Jones	5 50
Chas. Boynton	5 00
D. C. Pratt	4 00
H. T. Additon	1 12
Theodore Woodcock	5 14
Wm. Stewart	3 65
N. F. Woodcock	4 75
Peter Ronco	7 40
H. C. Bane	16 64
Ed. Farrar	8 15
J. S. Laughton	2 40
S. F. Dunlap	5 20
Frank Hatch	37
Geo. Farrar	1 00
Henry Watson	1 00
D. W. Wakefield	1 10
	$ 162 78

EXPENDED ON MAINSTREAM ROAD IN SUMMER

1899			
May	29	Paid G. H. Bryant	$ 6 25
June	1	Orin Judkins	11 88
		W. A. Tibbetts	2 50
		Jesse Hoyt	10 63
		Herbert Downing	11 88
	2	C. E. Carr	11 25
		W. H. Hurd	10 00
		S. W. Lane	20 00
		M. L. Arno	9 37
		Eugene Whitney	24 75
	5	E. G. Robinson	16 50
		W. H. Hurd	63
		R. E. Handerson	15 00
		Wm. Hoyt	1 88
		H. Q. Worthen	46 00
	9	H. Q. Worthen	1 00
Jan.	29	William Thompson	7 00
			$ 206 52

TREASURERS' REPORT.

W. H. Farrar, Treasurer of Ripley.

Dr.

To amount of school fund order	$ 540 55
certificate of deposit in Dexter Nat'l Bank library fund	631 98
amount of non-resident tax of 1890	80
" " " 1891	3 37
" " " 1893	22 70
" " " 1894	7 50
" " " 1895	27 87
" " " 1896	6 84
" " " 1897	31 05
" " " 1898	64 61
amount due from collector of 1896	14 88
" " " " " 1897	193 37
cash in treasury	697 03
cash received for ads. in town report, 1899	1 50
cash received from state for free high school	31 25
cash received from state for dog tax rebate	23 84
cash received from state for pensions	48 00
cash received from state for free library	17 31
amount from Town Clerk, dog tax	35 00
school fund and mill tax from state	344 85
state for damage done to sheep by dogs	1 70
cash for rent of town house	3 00
balance of 1898 dog tax	2 00
cash for road machine	11 00
commitment of 1899	2778 60
interest on school fund	32 43
finding lists sold	30
fines on books	1 80
interest received on 1897 taxes	2 06
Total	$ 5577 19

Cr.

By amount of school fund order	$ 540 55
state tax paid	351 72
cash paid for state pensions	48 00
county tax	50 00
dog license paid state	35 00
non-resident tax of 1890	80
" 1891	3 37
" 1893	21 10
" 1894	6 50
" 1895	15 07
" 1896	11 70
" 1897	8 70
" 1898	52 98
" 1899	118 74
certificate of deposit in Dexter Nat'l Bank library fund	631 98
cash paid for library books and other expenses of library	47 46
uncollected tax of 1897	110 37
town orders turned over	2854 54
by discount on highway tax of 1897	5 20
cash in treasury	663 41
Total	$ 5577 19

W. H. Farrar,
Treasurer of Ripley.

LIBRARY FUND.

Cr.

By cash in First National Bank, Dexter	$631 98
in treasury	28 05
rec'd from State 10 per cent. on '98 expenditures	17 31
rec'd from town	50 00
rec'd for fines	1 80
rec'd for finding list	30
	$729 44

Dr.

To cash paid A. A. Springall for books	$ 46 96
F. A. Lander, binding books	4 70
express on books	65
E. H. Ramsdell	45 00
for glue	15
To cash on deposit	631 98
	$729 44
Balance in bank	631 98
Int. estimated on library fund in Dexter bank	66 00
Total library fund	$697 98

W. H. Farrar, Treasurer.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF CROCKER LIBRARY.

No. of Vols. in library last year	607
added this year	88
Total	695

EXPENDITURES.

Paid A. A. Springall for books	$ 46 96
F. A. Lander for binding books	4 70
express on books	65
E. H. Ramsdell salary as librarian	45 00
for glue	15
Total	$97 46

SOURCE OF RECEIPTS.

Drew from library fund in hands of Town Treasurer	$ 45 36
Received from town	50 00
fines	1 80
finding lists	30
Total	$97 46

Chas. E. Carr,
C. E. Tripp,
C. S. Farrar,
Trustees of Crocker Library

SCHOOL REPORT.

TABULAR REPORT.

Number of School.	Name of Teacher.	No. of weeks in term.	Wages per week.	Price of board per week	Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Number of Schools taught before.	Number of visits by Superintendent.	Number of visits made by citizens.	Daily Recitations.
1	Esther M. Church	8	$4 50	$1 25	14	13	14	2		32
	JessieLawrence	8	5 00	1 50	16	14	4	2	3	30
	Mabel E. Fogg	2	4 50	1 50				1		
2	Lily S. Pray	8	4 50	1 50	22	19	5	2	7	23
	Mamie A. Bane	8	5 00	1 50	27	25	19	2	7	27
	Mamie A. Bane	8	5 00	1 50	23	20	20	2	6	25
3	Eunice M. Hoyt	8	4 25	1 25	16	14	1	2	13	33
	Eunice M. Hoyt	8	5 00	1 50	18	16	2	2		32
	Effie L. Randlette	8	4 50	1 50	15	11	0	2	5	31
4	Josephine E. Jones	8	4 00	1 50	8	7.5	0	2	4	29
	Lillian G. Hurd	8	4 50	1 50	7	5.5	7	2	6	24
	Lillian G. Hurd	8	4 50	1 50	13	12	8	2	10	25
5	Ella J. Mower	8	5 00	1 50	31	28	75	2	19	31
	Cora B. Mathews	8	5 50	1 50	33	25	38	2	17	28
	Cora B. Mathews	8	5 50	1 50	30	23	39	2	15	26

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Cash Account	Dr.
To amount raised by town	$ 450 00
Received from State	344 85
To interest on school fund	32 43
Unexpended from last year	7 79
	$ 835 07

	Cr.
By paid teachers' wages	$ 542 10
teachers' board	166 70
for fuel	33 25
janitor for services	9 45
Geo. Hersom	5 00
H. Worthen	20 00
Geo. Willard	6 00
	$ 782 50
Amount unexpended	$ 52 57

Number of scholars in town, 126.
Number of weeks of school, 114.
Average cost per week, $6.59.

To The Citizens of Ripley:

In presenting to you my second annual report of the schools I have to say, that there have been no very marked changes in any direction. The same conditions which confronted the schools one year ago appear to exist at the present time, although there have been slight changes in certain directions and mostly along lines of improvement.

The schools have been under the same management as last year, that of the school board. Eleven different teachers have been employed during the year; six of them have kept good schools, five have been unsatisfactory. The progress made by the several schools has been all we could expect, considering the frequent changes in teachers.

As there are only five schools in town, but five teachers should be employed to give the best results. No particular rules can be followed in the selection of teachers that will insure success in every instance, for teachers 'like poets' are born, not made. I do not mean to say that two or three years at a training school count for nothing, far from it, but there are many who might attend a training school a life time and then not be teachers. In hiring teachers we should be careful to select those of experience, then if they have fitted themselves for their profession we should look for good results. When we succeed in getting first-class teachers, we should keep them regardless of price, for eight weeks of good school is more profitable than twenty-four of poor.

The school board have been very liberal in the wages paid the teachers the past year, too much so in some instances, if I may be allowed to criticise. While I believe in paying good teachers good pay, which we must do to get them, I would govern the price by the merits of the teacher, rather than establish a uniform price according to the size of the school. Skilled labor should not be expected to compete against unskilled. Indirectly some good will accrue from the wages paid. It will have a tendancy to bring good teachers this way.

Several series of books have been changed, namely, Geographies and Histories. Other changes will need to be made this year. Children like new things, they soon tire of old toys and old stories. Their expanding minds need fresh material to feed upon. The reading lessons in their text books soon grow familiar and tiresome to them. The teacher often finds it difficult to arouse their interest and maintain order. To do this successfully supplementary reading must be given often. Order is one thing and dull routine is another and less desirable state of affairs. Not many decades ago it was thought most any one could teach school, but great changes have been made in the past fifty years, new phases and conditions of things are constantly arising and the present generation must meet and settle them. The present system of education requires that a general knowledge of a great many different things shall be taught, while it does not tend to produce those old time grammarians and arithmeticians who could unravel any problem however knotty, it better meets the needs of the present times.

School books are in rather poor condition; they last quick owing in a great measure to imperfect binding and perhaps in some instances to improper care by the children. Some kind of a cupboard should be provided in each school house in which books can be kept when not in use.

School houses are in good repair with the exception that several of them need painting; as this work was begun last year, let it continue until each house receives a new coat. New desks of a modern pattern have been placed in the house at W. Ripley. The pupils are well pleased with the change.

The school examinations have been well attended by a part of the parents and citizens. I hope the present year will find you not only present at the examinations, but frequent visitors during the year.

In my outline of the work done in each school, I have tried in a brief way to show you the condition of your schools as they appeared to me from time to time, and to accord the several teachers the success they have merited.

SYNOPSIS OF WORK IN EACH SCHOOL.

Dist. No. 1—Spring term was taught by Esther M. Church, who has had considerable experience as a teacher in the intermediate schools of Dexter. This experience, combined with a natural aptitude for teaching, well fitted her for a position in our rural schools. I consider this one of the best terms kept for the year.

Fall term was taught by Jessie Lawrence, a graduate of the Normal school at Farmington. Miss Lawrence came well recommended, but good recommendations and normal training failed to insure success in this instance. Lacking confidence and ability to govern, she could not make the term a success.

Winter term was commenced by Mabel Fogg, continuing two weeks, when it was obliged to stop on account of sickness of the teacher. Owing to the measle epidemic it has not been deemed advisable to again start the school.

Dist. No. 2—Spring term was taught by Lily S. Pray, a graduate of Colby. This was Miss Pray's first experience in rural schools, and I hope she gained something by this experience. I am quite sure the school did not.

Fall and winter terms were taught by Mamie Bane, who has had considerable experience in this school, having taught it seven terms, still retaining the reputation for thoroughness and good government attained in former terms.

Dist. No. 3—Spring and fall terms were taught by Eunice Hoyt with good success. Careful and painstaking in her work she gained the confidence and good will of her pupils, and also of the parents for the thoughtful care given the younger scholars.

Winter term was taught by Effie L. Randlette. At my first visit the school appeared well; after continuing nearly three weeks it was stopped on account of the measles. After remaining closed for five weeks it was again opened, but the interest of the school was lost. While they went over a sufficient number of pages, that thoroughness and discipline which pervades a successful school was lacking.

Dist. No. 4—Spring term was taught by Josephine E. Jones. This was Miss Jones first attempt at teaching. The attendance during this term was the best for the year. The same obstacle was met with by Miss Jones as has confronted all the teachers in this district, that of keeping order. Hers was the fate of all inexperienced ones, failure to govern. I can but repeat the remark of last year, that it is a mistake to place a young teacher in a position that needs all the experience of an older one.

The two remaining terms were taught by Lillian G. Hurd, a teacher of experience. She proved her ability to govern and still retain the good will of her pupils. I was well pleased with the appearance of the school at its close.

Dist. No. 5—Spring term was taught by Ella J. Mower who has had previous experience as a teacher in this school. Miss Mower managed the school in her easy and agreeable way, meeting with her former success.

Fall and winter terms were under the management of Cora B. Mathews, a graduate of the Normal school at Castine. Miss Mathews proved herself to be a worker and a teacher of progressive methods, therefore a great amount of work was accomplished. Special mention should be accorded her for the thoroughness insisted upon and for the general information imparted.

J. S. Laughton,

Ripley, Feb. 21, 1900. Superintendent of Schools.

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